

Influenza Testing Algorithm – Updated for Summer and Fall 2010

Michigan Department of Community Health

Questions regarding case and outbreak influenza testing should be directed to the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology at (517) 335-8165 during normal business hours or (517) 335-9030 after hours.

Suspect cases of avian or novel influenza strains (not including pandemic 2009 influenza A) should be reported immediately to the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology at the numbers listed above; testing will be arranged at that time.

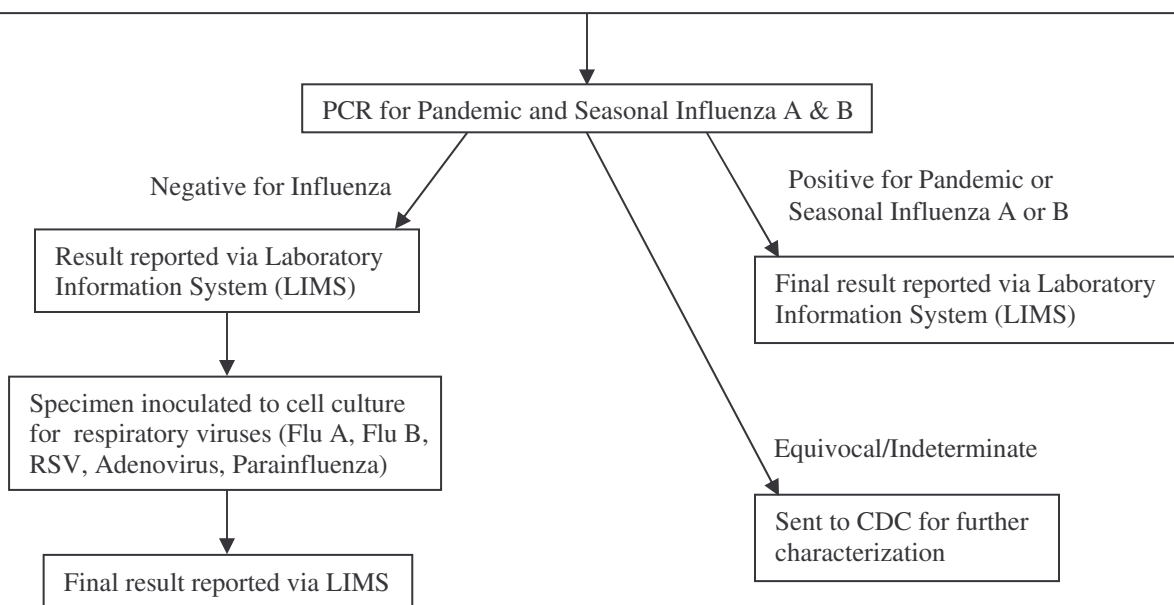
Update! The clinical criteria instituted for influenza testing at MDCH in September 2009 have been removed. MDCH is encouraging submission of respiratory specimens for influenza and respiratory virus testing for public health surveillance. Specimens can be submitted from any patient type, including outpatients, hospitalizations and especially deaths.

MDCH continues to highly encourage confirmatory influenza testing for cases of public health interest (**ICU hospitalizations, severely ill pregnant or postpartum women, patients with unusual and severe presentations, and deaths**) and for **congregate setting outbreak investigations**.

See the “Updated Influenza Surveillance, Reporting and Testing Guidance for Healthcare Providers” document from April 2010 for more information on influenza testing and reporting; it is available on the MIHAN and at www.michigan.gov/flu.

Specimen Collection and Submission

- Collect acceptable specimen*[#]
- Complete MDCH lab test request form (“Microbiology/Virology DCH-0583”)
 - Available at www.michigan.gov/mdchlab by clicking on “Test Request Forms” link
 - Under “Specimen Information” enter “Novel Influenza A PCR” in the “Other-Specify Test Code/Name” field
 - Under the “Indicate Test Reason Below” subsection, enter reason for testing in the “Other-Specify” field
- Ship specimen to MDCH Bureau of Laboratories on frozen cold packs, along with MDCH lab test request form

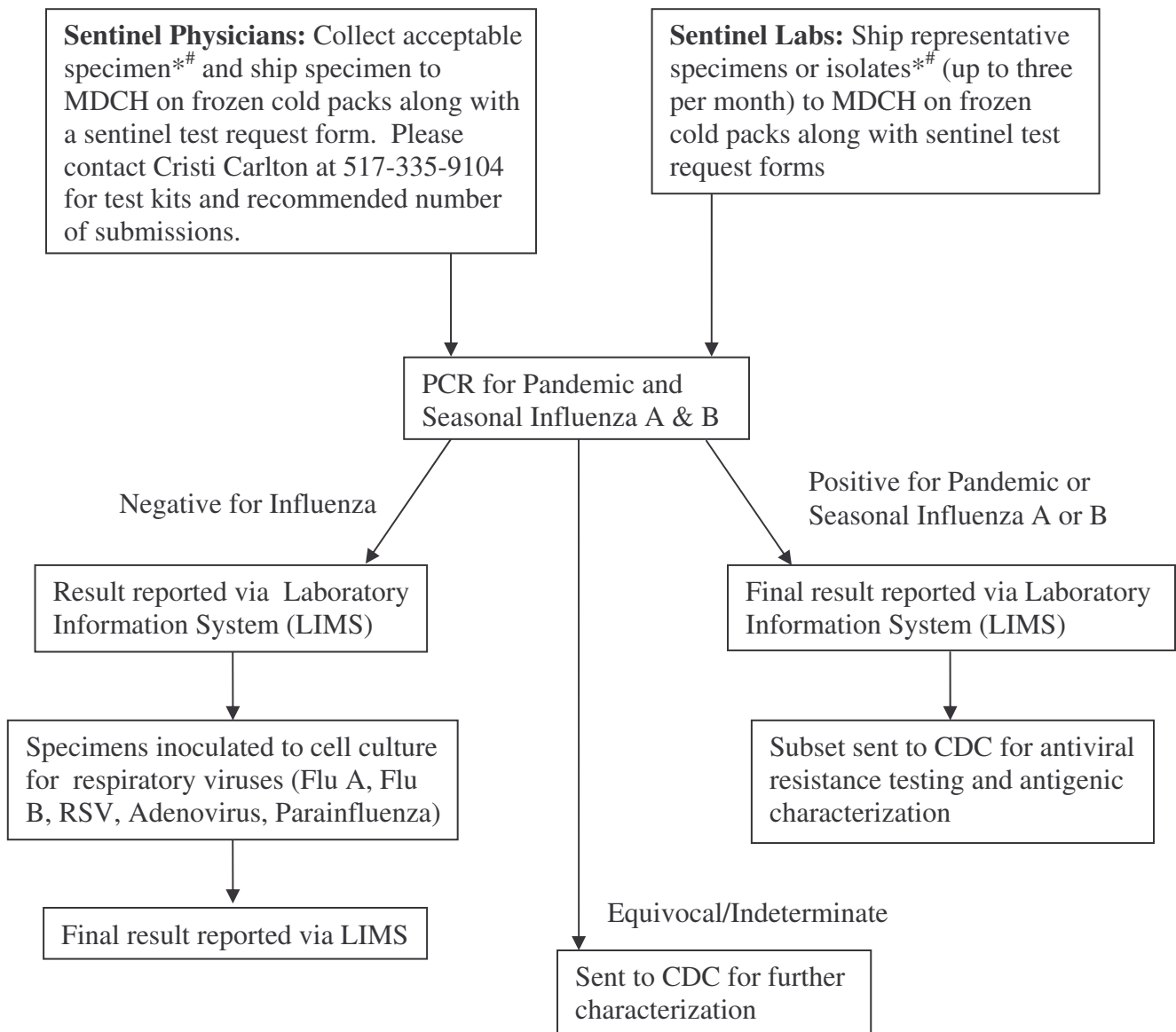


* Acceptable specimens: NP swab in viral transport medium (VTM) or saline (PBS); Nasal swab in VTM or PBS; Dual NP/OP swabs in VTM or PBS; Nasal aspirates; Viral isolates. **DO NOT SUBMIT MULTIPLE SAMPLES ON THE SAME PATIENT** unless by special request or arrangement.

Swabs used in influenza rapid diagnostic tests **cannot** be reused for MDCH testing. Consider collecting two swabs so that one may be reserved for MDCH confirmatory testing if needed. Alternatively, an aliquot of the original specimen may be submitted.

Influenza Testing Algorithm for Sentinel Physicians and Sentinel Laboratories
Updated for Summer and Fall 2010
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NOTE: If you are unsure whether you are enrolled as a sentinel physician or laboratory, or if you would like to enroll in this program, please consult your local health department or MDCH (517-335-9104 for physicians; 517-335-8165 for labs).



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